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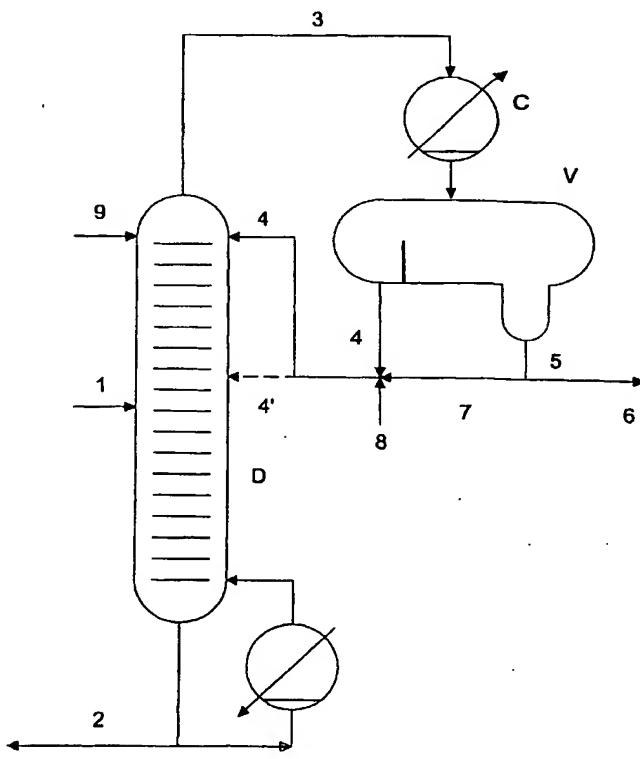
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE SEPARATION OF THE WATER PRODUCED IN THE CATALYTIC OXIDATION OF AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS TO POLYCARBOXYLIC AROMATIC ACIDS



(57) Abstract: In the oxidation process of aromatic hydrocarbons to produce the corresponding aromatic acids and anhydrides, such as isophthalic and terephthalic acid and their homologous products, by catalytic oxidation in the presence of acetic acid as reaction medium, the water, by-product of the oxidation reaction, is separated from the acetic acid to be recycled by means of azeotropic/extractive distillation, using, as modifying solvent of their relative volatility, the same aromatic hydrocarbon fed to the oxidation reaction.

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